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Ecomedia

B U L L E T I N

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GORDON
TRUMBLEY
SHOWS OFF
HIS BOSSSES'
CATTLE-
BRAND



Gordon Trumbley, top, and Rodney Pugh, bottom, of 55 Division

We Must Make Our Own Justice

On May 9, 1989, Robin Voce, a womyn who was raped by two metro cops five years ago, hanged herself. After years of attempts to charge the cops, a lengthy "internal hearing", and being dragged through the mud by the media, Robin brought to a close the tragedy that began February 8, 1984, when Gordon Trumbley and Rodney Pugh raped her in their cruiser after picking her up for drunk driving.

Although the internal hearing is continuing, everyone except some of the witnesses will be police - defense, prosecution, judge, and jury are all police and their peers. The most the two rapist cops might suffer is the loss of their jobs.

On May 22, less than two weeks after the death, Gordon Trumbley also walked free from an independent probe of the killing of Gardner Myers. Myers choked to death on fluid in his lungs two hours after his arrest last July 8. He was clubbed at least 20 times during his arrest on "suspicion of burglary". Paul Griffin, Rick Dionne, and Trumbley were cleared of any wrong-doing or use of "excessive force".

Police rapes are unbelievably common, as are police attacks, beat-

ings, and the (less common) shootings of people of colour, "undesirables", and those otherwise in-the-wrong-place-at-the-wrong-time. Rapes are common to wimmin picked up on criminal charges or who can be threatened with them, ie. drunk driving, prostitution, or petty theft. These rapes are almost never reported, precisely because police co-workers control the charges and proceedings. The exception is Robin Voce's uncommonly defiant move in following through on the charges over five years and refusing to give in to the extreme police and media pressure to back down - until her death.

Gordon Trumbley got caught twice, which might be considered a coincidence or just bad luck for him - it doesn't mean he's the only rapist or murderer on the force. Trumbley is not an exception - some might say he's the rule.

Faced with these kinds of attacks we are defenseless if we rely on their systems of "justice". We can't expect justice from any court system, internal hearings, or other courts proper. The law is a conspiracy which "serves and protects" itself above all others.

Q: What is the difference between a cop and a piece of shit?

A: The cop wears a uniform.

ANARCHISTS ORGANIZE

(OTTAWA) - 100 to 150 Anarchists spanning the region including Toronto - Ottawa - Montreal met May 26-29 to make links between their communities within this geographic area (the Canadian Shield). Here it was decided that the regional gatherings will continue to happen once every six months or so, in order to supplement both the local movements and the infamous yearly continental gatherings of anarchists.

In future, these gatherings will be bilingual (French/English), reflecting the nature of the area, of which the Quebecois people are a part.

At this first gathering, held in Ottawa and hosted by the Outaouais Anarchist Circle (producers of **Outaouais Outrage**, the Ottawa Ecomedia), workshops ranged from Anti-Fascist organizing to Feminism in the Anarchist Community to Resisting the new budget, Workplace issues, and the Quebec National question.

Many were disgusted at the rampant sexism, racism, and homophobia displayed by some of the participants. Although this was confronted it continues to be a problem and will likely colour future gatherings, creating conflict between those who will tolerate it and those who won't.

Dates and details of future regional gatherings will be carried in Ecomedia.

The Regional Gathering coincided with the ARMX exhibition held in Ottawa at the same time. This exhibition was held so that arms dealers from all over the world could show off their "wonderful" new toys to all those interested countries. On the Monday, May 22, the last day of the Gathering, there was a demonstration held in coalition with various peace groups which numbered around 2000 people the noisiest of whom were the Anarchists marching at the front of the

demo. During the rest of the week various groups held actions against the arms exhibition. Rumour has it that the Ottawa city council has decided not to host the ARMX show again and so the Defense Department will have to look elsewhere for a location for next year.



"Don't Mourn...Organize!"

(Joe Hill, IWW Poet)

April 28 was a day of mourning for workers killed or maimed on the job in Canada. So far in Ontario this year 91 workers have been killed and 117,935 injured, statistics which remind us of the all-too-common dangers of many workplaces. Last year 293 workers died and 489,819 were injured, and increase over the previous year (Toronto Star 29/4/89). The traditional labour movement is supporting a new law, Bill 208, which would give union safety reps the power to shut down production upon finding safety hazards

until an inspector arrives. Although the law in itself is definitely a progressive move, workers will be damned to rely solely on union reps and inspectors to respond satisfactorily to such dangers. With the death toll at such a high rate, we are justified in taking any steps necessary to protect safety, including shutting down operations ourselves.

In an upcoming issue we'll feature a report on Bill 162, which is cutting Workers Comp, in the midst of all this.

TAXATION IS THEFT

At a preliminary workshop during the recent anarchist gathering in Ottawa, various strategies were discussed for resisting the Mulroney government's shifting of a large part of the tax burden from the rich to the poor, and forthcoming imposition of a national sales tax. Further meetings will be held in Toronto. For more information, call the anarchist hot line 536-2514.

There is Only One CNT

In Spain, a conflict which has for ten years scarred the face of anarcho-syndicalism, has finally been resolved. The CNT-AIT (National Confederation of Workers, the Spanish branch of the anarchist International Workers Association) has been recognized legally as the one real CNT, as opposed to a splinter group, the "CNT-renovados" who were laying claim to the name.

The CNT-AIT is the same famous anarchist union which played a huge role in the collectivization and revolution in Spain during the Civil war in 1936-39. The Spanish revolution has long been a source of pride for anarchists, as a working example of our ideas in action. After the war, the fas-

cists against whom they fought, outlawed the union, stole all their assets, and murdered and imprisoned CNT activists. When Franco (Spain's dictator) died and a state socialist government was installed, the CNT rose again but its assets were still withheld by the new rulers. Its enemies then took advantage of a genuine schism in the union to infiltrate the split-off faction, create a phony CNT, and prepare it for a sell-out to capitalism in order to finally crush the CNT.

Eventually, it was inevitable that the phonies would be exposed due to their reformism, but the courts were used to create the means of regaining the massive assets of the union. In



the recent court decision the CNT-AIT, as opposed to the phony CNT, were recognized as genuine and deserving of the assets. The renovados have changed their name to the CGT (Confederation of General Workers). Meanwhile the CNT-AIT has appealed to all workers who left them in the original schism to rejoin them and to take up once more the banner of anarcho-syndicalism.

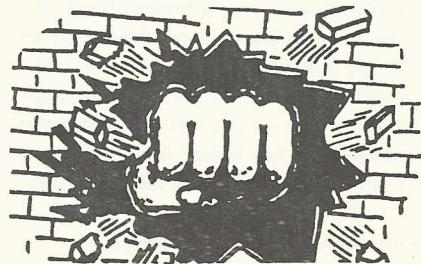
(source: *Black Flag* 1/5/89)

BEHIND THE WALLS

MONROE, WA-Prison authorities here have temporarily thwarted re-publication of the prison newsletter Red Dragon by transferring one of the two principle organizers out of the Monroe Correctional Facility. Both men are under investigation by the FBI. Plans are still underway to publish, but outside assistance is needed. To learn how you can help, write to Ed Mead #251397, PO Box 777, Monroe WA USA 98272, or to Paul Wright #930783, POB 520 8-B-1, Walla Walla WA 99362. (*Seditionist*, April 20 1989.)

ROYAL OAK, MICH-With numerous people dying because not enough organs for transplant are donated to save their lives, an MD here is proposing to harvest the organs of the 2,000 people now on death row. This would require doctors to act as executioners, since the victims would have to be killed by anesthesia so that the organs could be removed while respiratory and cardiac systems still function (present methods, such as gas, electrocution and injection, kill the body at the same time as the mind and thereby prevent transplants.)

Some condemned prisoners support the proposal, but death penalty opponents oppose it as they fear it would cast executions in a more favourable light. (*Newsweek* 9-1-89.)



MUTUAL AID

Like any of the other news media, Ecomedia tends to report dramatic incidents rather than longterm projects which are not so immediately spectacular. Since most such incidents are apt to be physical confrontations of one sort or another, mostly with the police, this reporting might generate the impression that anarchists see such encounters as the main route to social change. This column, hereafter to be a regular feature of the newsletter, will try to balance things out by offering information on the building of an alternative social, economic and cultural system embodying the values which we hope eventually to see embraced by society as a whole. Many anarchists consider this strategy to be at least as important as confronting the system.

Although news of such alternatives surrounds us, it frequently goes unnoticed. For instance, on May 4 a Toronto tabloid with which we rarely agree printed a one-paragraph item about a Japanese village called Shindo, which for one day each year gives its goods and services away instead of selling them. On May 3rd of this year, an estimated \$1.3 million worth of food, haircuts etc. were distributed. The organizers are a group called the Yamgishi Society, of which we'd like to know more. It sounds as if they may be on the same track as the west coast native people with their potlatch ceremony or the Gramdan movement in India, founded after Gandhi's death by his disciple Vinoba Bhave, which made large amounts of land available for communal use by some of India's poorest citizens. This enabled the ideals of Gandhi to live on

after the state of India turned away from them.

There's even more such news in many progressive publications. For instance, the current Utne Reader (#33) contains a series of articles about alternatives to living in a single-family detached house, the housing unit that still makes up 67% of American housing even though increased numbers are finding it both unaffordable and outdated (less than a quarter of the U.S. population now lives in the sort of household it was designed for, with an earning father and homemaking mother.) Among the more attractive models are the cohousing developments pioneered in Denmark and

now seen in various European countries, wherein groups of from 6 to 80 households eat communally and pool their childcare in a common house, while maintaining separate dwelling space. Although some cooperative housing developments have been built in Canada, they rarely if ever are conceived on the basis of sharing each others' lives to this extent

We invite the Ecomedia readership to share in the gathering of information which may be shared through this column; a project that's working well in one country or community might be adaptable to meet the needs of another. Write Mutual Aid c.o. the newsletter, or call the anarchist hot line 536-2514.

THE END OF ECOMEDIA?

Once again Ecomedia has reached a financial crisis - we have enough money for one more issue.

Ecomedia's news service has been running steadily for a year and a half, providing up-to-date news and analysis for free inside Toronto and, for a small subscription rate, elsewhere. We rely entirely on donations and subscriptions to keep this service running. At present, Ecomedia's costs are approximately \$100/issue.

If you rely on Ecomedia's news, or feel that such an outreach tool is useful to our movement, then please help us out. Thanks in advance for any help you can give us.

Calendar

June 3: Benefit for Teme-Augama Anishnabai featuring:

- Native Drumming
 - Clifton Joseph
 - IXIM W'anima
 - Imagine
- and representatives of the Bear Island Band.

from 1pm to 9:30pm at 16 Spadina Road. For more information call 588-2712

June 3: Anarchist Picnic/Town Hall, 4pm Alexandra Park at Dundas and Bathurst. Bring food!

June 3 and 4: the Vegetarian Food Fair at Harbourfront from 11-6

June 4 to 9: International AIDS conference in Montreal for more information contact AIDS Action Now, Toronto.